

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-20 and 23-29 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 30-33, 35, 37-43, 45 and 47-52 are canceled; and no claims are added or amended herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 30-32, 35, 37, 40-42, 45, 47 and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,381,419 to Kinoshita in view of JP 06-230646 to Menjo; Claims 33 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinoshita and Menjo and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,249,020 to Takano; and Claims 38, 39, 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kinoshita and Menjo and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,376 to Chiesa.

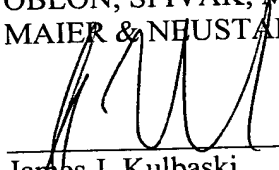
Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating Claims 19-20 and 23-29 are allowed. The rejected claims have been canceled by the present amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Consequently, for at least these reasons, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the above listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James J. Kulbaski  
Registration No. 34,648

Kevin M. McKinley  
Registration No. 43,794

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 03/06)  
JJK:KMM/la

I:\ATTY\KMM\PROSECUTION WORK\242388\3-19-07 AMENDMENT.DOC